

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /025 R

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NEA:ESWALKER

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O R 081834Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 052731

STADIS////////////////////////////////

TOSEC 173

FOLL REPEAT DAMASCUS 825 ACTION SECSTATE 05 MAR 75 QUOTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0825

STADIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT

REF: STATE 045280

1. SUMMARY. I BELIEVE WE CAN AND SHOULD PROCEED WITH
OFFER OF 10,000 M.T. ADDITIONAL RICE THIS FY AND AT SAME
TIME EXPLAIN LIMITS ON WHEAT AND OUR INTENTION TO CONSI-
DER ADDITIONAL WHEAT EARLY IN FY 76. WE HAVE MOVED
RAPIDLY TO ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIA AND I
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BELIEVE SARG WILL UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEM WITH WHEAT

THIS FY. RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED BEGIN
RICE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE DISCUSSION OF BOTH WHEAT AND RICE ADD-ON
DURING SECRETARY'S FEB 13 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD,
BELIEVE WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY SLIP WHEAT INTO FY 76 WITHOUT
SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. EXCEPT FOR MY JANUARY 30 DISCUS-
SION WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY IMADI, SARG OFFICIALS HAVE
BEEN CONCENTRATING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING PL-480
AGREEMENT AND HAVE NOT RAISED WITH EMBOFFS OR AGATT
MATTER OF PENDING ADD-ON REQUEST DESPITE SEVERAL OPPOR-
TUNITIES TO DO SO. I THINK WE CAN AND SHOULD PROCEED NOW
TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN 10,000 TON RICE AGREEMENT. WHEN
IMADI RAISES ADDITIONAL 25,000 TON WHEAT REQUEST, I WOULD
EXPLAIN WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN OF OUR OWN SUPPLY SITUATION,
WHICH IS TIGHT, AND BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO PROCEED
SEPARATELY WITH RICE. I COULD ALSO SAY IT IS OUR CURRENT
READING THA WHEAT MAY NOT BECOME AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY
FY 1976.

3. RECOMMEND THAT IN RESPONSE TO DAMASCUS 380, STATE/
USDA PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS/AQTHORIZATION FOR
EMBASSY TO RETURN TO IMADI WITH PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF
NOTES, AMENDING PART II OF NOVEMBER 20 AGREEMENT TO
INCREASE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF RICE FROM 25,000 M.T. TO
35,000 M.T. IN GOING TO IMADI, I WOULD PLAN TO REVIEW
USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENTS (UMR) FOR RICE. WISH TO
EMPHASIZE THAT IF YOU AGREE TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, NEW
RICE OFFER AND AGREEMENT SHOULD IN NO WAY DELAY FUR-
THER USDA ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS (PA'S) AND
APPROVAL OF TENDERS ON CURRENT AMOUNT OF WHEAT AND RICE.

4. ALSO WISH TO NOTE THAT WHEN I RAISE THIS WITH IMADI,
HE NO DOUBT WILL ASK ABOUT OUR DELAYED SUBMISSION TO
HIM OF ARABIC VERSION OF NOVEMBER 20 AGREEMENT, WHICH
ALSO HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF OFFICIAL NOTE FROM SARG.
WE CABLED OUR CHANGES TO DEPT FEBRUARY 9 (DAMASCUS 474),
BUT STATE 35928 (FEBRUARY 18) ONLY GAVE US INTERIM, NON-
RESPONSIVE REPLY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

MURPHY

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UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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